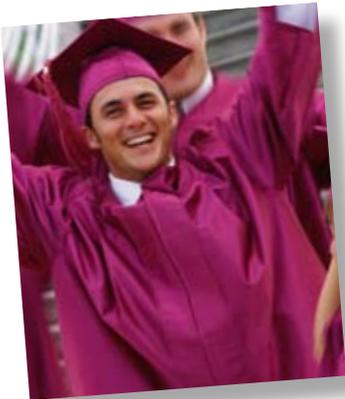


Looking At The ISSUES

August 17, 2007

Looking At The Week

On Wednesday, August 15th, Dr. Adrienne O'Neill met with all principals and administrators from Massillon City Schools along with Superintendent, Fred Blosser to present "Leadership: Creating Urgency."



State Institutions Remain Colleges of Choice for Stark Graduates

...(T)oday's meeting is about building our system of public higher education. Meeting together in this manner is important not just because eighty percent of all students will be educated in the public system, but also because public higher education has a special mission, a special obligation to the state and its people. – Chancellor Eric Fingerhut

Recent action by Governor Strickland and Chancellor Fingerhut to create a new University System of Ohio¹ to include the state's 13 public universities and their branch campuses, a medical school, and 23 two-year technical and community colleges will impact the vast majority of Stark County high school graduates if current college enrollment trends continue.

That's because figures from the Ohio Board of Regents for the class of 2005,² the latest available, show that of the 2,078 Stark graduates enrolling in Ohio colleges and universities the following fall, 1,860 or nearly 90% entered state public institutions.

Forty-one percent or 855 students stayed at home, enrolling in Stark County institutions alone, both public and private. Indeed, local and regional state institutions are four of the top five colleges of choice for Stark graduates. The top enrollments are as follows:

1 – Kent State Stark	336
2 – Stark State College	301
3 – University of Akron	274
4 – Kent State Main	223
5 – Ohio State University	148

¹ Visit the new University System of Ohio web site at: <http://www.universitysystem.ohio.gov/>

² These figures have been released to the Stark Education Partnership are from the forthcoming 2007 Making the Transition from High School to College Report which will be available at: <http://regents.ohio.gov/perfrpt/index.php>